

Message Text

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ACTION AID-31

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

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FOR AID/AA/NESA - NOOTER AND FOR NEA/EX FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: APER, AWRD, EG

SUBJ: NOMINATION FOR INCENTIVE AWARD

1. I AM SUBMITTING IN THIS TELEGRAM A NOMINATION FOR A SUPERIOR HONOR AWARD FOR AID DIRECTOR TEMPLETON. THIS METHOD HAS BEEN CHOSEN BECAUSE THE AWARD SHOULD BE PRESENTED HERE PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE AND TIME IS GROWING SHORT. WE ARE POUCHING APPROPRIATE FORMS TO DEPARTMENT. NOMINATION HAS BEEN APPROVED BY EMBASSY AWARDS COMMITTEE.

2. IF IS NOT NECESSARY TO ELABORATE ON MR. TEMPLETON'S EXTRAORDINARY CONTRIBUTIONS, WHICH ARE IN ANY EVENT DETAILED IN FOLLOWING NOMINATION, BUT I WISH TO URGE PROMPT PROCESSING OF THIS AWARD THROUGH ALL THE NECESSARY CHANNELS, SO THAT CITATION AND PIN WILL ARRIVE CAIRO NO LATER THAN JULY 23.

NOMINATION FOR SUPERIOR HONOR AWARD

TEMPLETON, WILBERT R.

CITATION:

"IN RECOGNITION OF HIS OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP, TECHNICAL COMPETENCE, AND EXTRAORDINARY EFFORT IN SUCCESSFULLY DEVELOPING AND RAPIDLY

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IMPLEMENTING A NEW COUNTRY PROGRAM FOR

EGYPT AT AN UNPRECEDENTED LEVEL OF FUNDING, AND IN AN IMPOSSIBLY SHORT TIME. HIS DEDICATION, ABILITY AND KNOWLEDGE HAVE MADE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO A NEW ERA IN EGYPTIAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS, AND TO THE ATTAINMENT OF MAJOR FOREIGN POLICY OBJECTIVES IN THE MIDDLE EAST."

JUSTIFICATION:

IN MARCH OF 1974, A DECISION WAS REACHED AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS TO REQUEST \$250 MILLION FROM THE CONGRESS FOR AID TO EGYPT FOR U.S. FISCAL YEAR 1975. IN APRIL, MR. TEMPLETON LED A TEAM TO CAIRO TO IDENTIFY AND SUBMIT WITHIN TEN DAYS A PROPOSED PROGRAM TO UTILIZE THESE FUNDS FOR PRESENTATION TO THE CONGRESS. THIS WAS THE FIRST OF MANY SEEMINGLY IMPOSSIBLE TASKS WHICH AN INITIAL SMALL GROUP UNDER MR. TEMPLETON'S LEADERSHIP WAS ASKED TO ACCOMPLISH, AND DID.

IN THE ENSUING MONTHS, I CAME INCREASINGLY TO RELY ON MR. TEMPLETON'S JUDGEMENT, ABILITY, ENERGY AND KNOWLEDGE. HIS COMPLETE UNDERSTANDING OF THE REQUIREMENTS OF AID LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS, INVALUABLY COUPLED WITH HIS RAPID AND COMPREHENSIVE GRASP OF EGYPT'S MOST PRESSING NEEDS IN THE FIELD OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, ENABLED HIM TO MOVE QUICKLY FORWARD WITH AN EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT PROGRAM. SOME OF THE MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS ARE DETAILED BELOW:

BY JUNE OF 1975, THE FULL \$250 MILLION OF FY 1975 FUNDING WAS OBLIGATED, WITH AN AID/CAIRO STAFF WHICH UP TO THAT TIME HAD AVERAGED LESS THAN FIVE.

DURING THE PERIOD JULY TO OCTOBER 1975, THE FY 1976 PROGRAM LEVEL WAS CONSTANTLY INCREASED BY WASHINGTON, FINALLY REACHING A TOTAL OF \$750 MILLION. DURING THIS PERIOD, THE STAFF HAD GROWN TO ONLY TEN AMERICANS.

BY DECEMBER OF 1975, ALTHOUGH THE CEILING FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AMERICAN POSITIONS HAD BEEN RAISED TO FIFTY-ONE, AID/CAIRO HAD ONLY TWELVE ON BOARD.

1976 BEGAN WITH PROPECTS FOR INCREASED STAFF AND LIGHTENED INDIVIDUAL WORKLOADS, BUT A PROJECT PROGRAM OF MORE THAN \$450 MILLION WHICH WAS REQUIRED TO REACH THE APPROVAL AND OBLIGATION STAGE BEFORE JUNE 30

COULD NOT AWAIT THE ARRIVAL OF NEW STAFF.
THIS DIFFICULT TASK WAS ACCOMPLISHED PRIOR
TO JUNE 30, AND THE MISSION WAS READY,
CONGRESS BEING WILLING, TO OBLIGATE ALL OF
THE PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS PLANNED FOR FY 1976.
IT SHOULD NOT BE FORGOTTEN THAT DURING THIS
SAME PERIOD A FY 1977 PROGRAM TOTALLING
ANOTHER \$750 MILLION WAS DEVISED AND SUBMITTED.

DURING ALL THE ABOVE PERIOD, IT WAS ALSO NECESSARY
TO SOLVE PROBLEMS OF LOCAL STAFFING, OFFICE
SPACE, RESIDENTIAL QUARTERS, TRANSPORT,
FURNISHINGS, EQUIPMENT AND ALL OF THE MYRIAD
DETAILS RESULTING FROM THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A
NEW MISSION IN A RECENTLY REOPENED EMBASSY.

PRESIDENT NIXON, AND MORE RECENTLY PRESIDENT FORD,
HAVE PUBLICLY COMMITTED THE UNITED STATES TO SUPPORT
EGYPT'S ECONOMIC OPEN DOOR AND ITS EFFORTS AT ECONOMIC
LIBERALIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT. THE CONGRESS HAS
APPROPRIATED FUNDS TO BE USED IN FURTHERANCE OF THIS
POLICY AND IT WAS MR. TEMPLETON'S TASK TO USE
THESE FUNDS RAPIDLY AND EFFECTIVELY, WITH UNFLAGGING
ENTHUSIASM, UNFAILING GOOD NATURE, OUTSTANDING
JUDGEMENT, EXEMPLARY LEADERSHIP AND UNEQUALED HARD
WORK, HE HAS "DONE THE NEEDFUL" AND HAS LED AN
EMBATTLED FEW TO ACCOMPLISH NEAR MIRACLES IN
DEVELOPING THE LARGEST AMERICAN ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE
PROGRAM SINCE THE MARSHALL PLAN.

IN SO DOING, MR. TEMPLETON HAS XMADE A MAJOR
CONTRIBUTION TO THE ATTAINMENT OF U.S. POLICY OBJECTIVES
IN EGYPT AND IN THE MIDDLE EAST; HE HAS EARNED A
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FULLY JUSTIFIED REPUTATION AS A MAN IN WHOM COMPLETE
CONFIDENCE AND TRUST CAN BE PLACED, BY THE GOVERNMENT
OF BOTH EGYPT AND THE UNITED STATES; HE HAS SIGNIFICANTLY
AND CONCRETELY DEMONSTRATED THE WILLINGNESS AND ABILITY
OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE TO FULFILL THEIR COMMITMENT
TO HELP EGYPT THROUGH A DIFFICULT PERIOD; HE HAS IN
EVERY WAY PERFORMED IN A MANNER WHICH REFLECTS GREAT
CREDIT ON HIMSELF, THE AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT, AND ON OUR COUNTRY.
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